



December 20, 2004

Six kilograms of heroin seized; driver charged

A federal magistrate judge in Providence has ordered **Jacinto Garcia, Jr.**, 35, of Providence and Florida, detained on a heroin-trafficking charge. According to an affidavit filed by a Providence Police narcotics detective, police seized six kilograms of heroin on December 18 from a secret compartment in a mini-van that Garcia was driving.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente and Colonel Dean Esserman, Chief of the Providence Police Department, announced a complaint that was lodged today in U.S. District Court, Providence, charging Garcia with one count of possessing with intent to distribute heroin.

According to the affidavit, Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau detectives had developed information that Garcia would be driving to Rhode Island from Florida, transporting a large quantity of heroin. According to information developed in the investigation, Garcia was living in Pembroke Pines, Florida but had previously lived at 80 Borinquin Street, Providence, and had relatives still living at that address.

On September 18, detectives spotted Garcia driving a gold minivan on I-95. A patrol cruiser stopped the mini-van at Eddy Street and Willard Avenue and arrested Garcia for allegedly driving with a suspended Florida driver's license. During a subsequent search of the mini-van, detectives found approximately six kilograms of heroin hidden in a secret compartment. Detectives then referred the case to the U.S. Attorney's Office for federal prosecution.

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Garcia appeared today before Magistrate Judge David L. Martin and was ordered detained pending further proceedings. The charge against Garcia is a felony and is therefore subject to review by a federal grand jury. A complaint is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The **Providence Police Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein is prosecuting it.

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